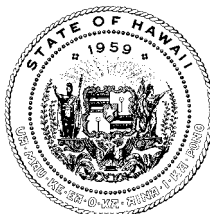


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Mauka-Makai Watch

Communities Working with Resource Managers and Regulators

The Hawaii State Constitution mandates that the State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawai'i's natural beauty and resources, including land, water, air, minerals and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the State. All public resources are held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people.

There is urgency today to reconnect Hawai'i's people with the health of the resources and environment. Through community education and outreach, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) seeks to instill in Hawai'i's population a sense of pride and, with it, respect and responsibility for the protection and preservation of our natural and cultural resources.

Our natural and cultural resources are not simply historic sites, oceans, streams, mountains, trees, birds and fish. They are the:

- Foundation of our quality of life
- Backdrop for our economy
- Our natural and cultural resources define Hawai'i's "sense of place."
 - They make and keep Hawai'i, Hawai'i

The threats to the natural and cultural resources, and our quality of life, are real and diverse. Our natural and cultural resources are not limitless nor are they resilient – they are scarce and fragile. Fresh water, clean ocean, open space and green, forested mountains are not only features of our preferred quality of life, they are essential to our own basic physical survival as a species on these islands – they support all life.

No one constituency, no one community, no one resource management entity has the sole responsibility for and jurisdiction over the resources. Each of us shares the responsibility for the protection and preservation of our natural and cultural resources.

Today and everyday, DLNR strives to reinforce the priority to our natural and cultural resources in the context of working together for a better community. DLNR is tasked with immense responsibilities and recognizes that it cannot accomplish its mandate alone – DLNR needs the cooperation and participation of others to get things done.

Mauka-Makai Watch

The Mauka-Makai Watch concept is based on the idea that the people who use, live closest to or are involved with the resources are in the best position to help in ensuring compliance with resource protection and preservation.

Mauka-Makai Watch is based on the context that the active participation of communities and constituency groups is a critical element in community health and safety - not through vigilantism or exclusion, but simply through a willingness to help prevent wrong-doing through presence and education, look out for suspicious activity, monitor and care for the resources, and report inappropriate activity to law enforcement and to each other.

Mauka-Makai Watch involves communities assisting resource managers and regulators responsible for our natural and cultural resources. It is based on experience that Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has had with the Miloli'i community, with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Community Conservation Network (CCN), as well as with the Wai 'Opae community, both on the Big Island, to establish and pursue a Mauka-Makai Watch Program.

The Mauka-Makai Watch program is flexible and versatile; it can focus on marine and coastal related context under a "Makai Watch" reference, or it can center on forest, hunting or other inland issues under a "Mauka Watch" reference. Or, it can incorporate a broad, comprehensive network linking inland and coastal matters under a Mauka-Makai Watch.

Mauka-Makai Watch is Very Similar to Neighborhood Watch

The Mauka-Makai Watch concept is very similar to the Neighborhood Watch Program in which community members act as the "eyes and ears" for the Police Department to help deter, identify, and report crimes. When a crime or suspicious behavior is observed by Neighborhood Watch members, they have a direct line to the Police Department and, depending on the situation, the Police can choose to send out patrol officers.

Neighborhood Watch volunteers understand that the active participation of neighborhood residents is a critical element in community safety. Similarly, Mauka-Makai Watch Volunteers have a presence in our natural and cultural resources areas to help act as the eyes and ears for resource managers and regulators.

The goal of the Mauka-Makai Watch Program is to help ensure that local community members support DLNR, and other resource managers and regulators, in natural and cultural resource enforcement, education, outreach, monitoring and surveillance to protect the resources.

The Mauka-Makai Watch approach is based on the idea that the people who use, deal with or live closest to natural and cultural resources are in the best position to help in understanding the nature of the area.

Ways Mauka-Makai Watch Can Make a Difference

There are several ways communities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can increase public compliance with the rules that are intended to protect our natural and cultural resources. It is generally accepted that compliance increases with increased:

- public and constituency awareness of the condition of the resources in their area
- opportunity for the public and constituencies to be meaningfully involved in how to protect the resources and to help government implement the management options
- opportunity to help government agencies monitor the condition of the resources and the public's/constituencies' use of those resources
- public and constituency awareness of the rules and why they are necessary to protect the resources

Active community assistance in resource management often results in locally-acceptable resolutions to resource management issues, increased protection and preservation, better monitoring and understanding of the condition of the resources, compliance with rules and greater capabilities within the community to assist in resource management decision-making. Empowering local residents and resource users to help government manage resources will increase their feeling of responsibility and ownership in the future of local resources and result in their greater protection of the resources.

Community-supported natural and cultural resource protection and preservation programs represent a win-win opportunity. DLNR wants and needs citizens to take more personal responsibility for protecting the resources. Compliance increases with more community involvement.

The Benefits of Mauka-Makai Watch

The benefits of Mauka-Makai Watch are many. Through Mauka-Makai Watch, local communities gain a sense of pride and accomplishment as they play a stronger role by assisting in resource assessment, management and protection of our natural and cultural resources. Resource managers and enforcement personnel benefit from increased surveillance, outreach and education.

Mauka-Makai Watch serves as a vehicle in helping people “make a difference” in their own community. A goal of Mauka-Makai Watch is to help ensure that community members support DLNR and other resource managers and regulators in education, regulation, monitoring and observation to protect our natural and cultural resources.

As areas under Mauka-Makai Watch gain a reputation for increased attention, enforcement violations will likely be reduced and, as a result, the resources will be more fully protected and DLNR's workload in these areas will decrease. While there is still a long way to go to improve and expand the existing Mauka-Makai Watch program, together, we have set a good foundation for success.

Expanding the Mauka-Makai Watch Program

DLNR is committed to expand the Mauka-Makai Watch program with the diversity of communities and constituencies throughout the State of Hawai'i. DLNR hopes that in doing so, the department will help in connecting communities and constituencies with the resources that surround them.

DLNR is composed of several diverse, yet interrelated divisions. The following DLNR divisions are involved and actively participate in the Mauka-Makai Watch program:

- Division of Aquatic Resources - DAR
- Division of Forestry and Wildlife - DOFAW
- Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation - DOBOR
- Commission on Water Resource Management - CWRM
- Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement - DOCARE
- State Historic Preservation Division - SHPD
- Division of Land - LAND
- Engineering Division - ENG
- Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands - OCCL
- Division of State Parks - PARKS
- DLNR Public Information Office - PIO

Mauka-Makai Watch is Part of DLNR's "Ho'okuleana" Program

Mauka-Makai Watch falls under DLNR's umbrella "Ho'okuleana" program to increase outreach and education efforts. In a single word, "Ho'okuleana" is focused on "responsibility." Our individual and collective responsibility to:

- Participate - rather than ignore
- Prevent - rather than react
- Preserve - rather than degrade

"Ho'okuleana" recognizes the interconnected, interrelated and interdependent relationships we have with the natural and cultural resources. Some call it the "watershed-," "habitat-" or "ecosystem-" based stewardship approaches; to the Hawaiians, this context was exemplified in the ahupua'a (ancient Hawaiian land division system which contained strips of land that extended from the mountain to the sea supporting self-contained communities.)

"Ho'okuleana" reinforces the importance of partnerships and working together. "Ho'okuleana" is founded on the principle that partnerships are priorities.

"Ho'okuleana" is a message that DLNR is, and will continue to be, a willing and able partner.

Let's continue to work together to better understand, respect, use, care about and take care of our special natural and cultural resources and, by doing so, make Hawai'i a great place to live.